

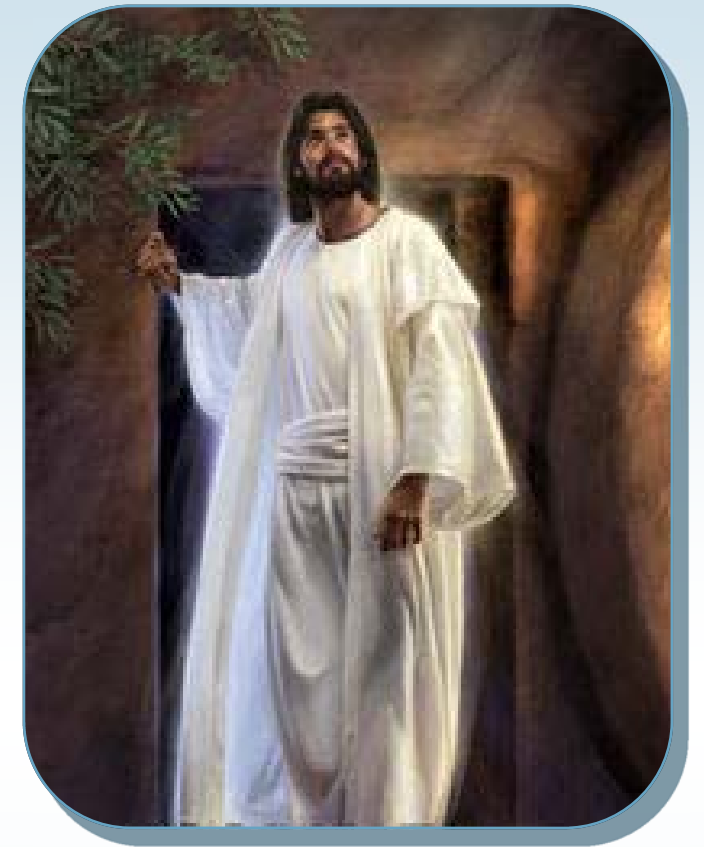
Reflections on Cremation, as the choice for the final disposition of the deceased:

1. "Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites." (OCF #413) "When the choice has been made to cremate a body, it is recommended that the cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy." (OCF #418)
2. "The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement, transport and the final disposition." (OCF #417) It is never permitted to divide or separate a person's remains.
3. The proper disposition for the cremated remains is for them to be buried or entombed in a Catholic Cemetery, a mausoleum or columbarium in a manner that will provide a guarantee of perpetual care. The principal of respect for the cremated remains of a deceased Christian embraces the deeper belief in the individuality of each baptized person before God. Throughout history, the mingling of remains has never been an accepted practice, except in extraordinary circumstances.
4. "The practice of scattering cremated remains at sea, from the air, on the ground or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased is not the reverent disposition that the Church requires." (OCF #417)
5. "Whenever possible, appropriate means for recording with dignity the memory of the deceased should be adopted, such as a plaque or stone which records the name of the deceased." (OCF #417)

6. Catholics are strongly encouraged to be buried or entombed in a Catholic Cemetery, where there is an assurance that the remains of the person will be treated with reverence and perpetual care.
7. Once the cremation process has been completed, it is the expectation of the Church that the cremated remains will be buried or entombed without undue delay, recognizing that there may be a need to transport the remains to another, perhaps distant, location.
8. Using a common grave, ground or niche where the cremated remains of several persons are scattered, poured, buried or combined without individual urns or sealed containers is to be completely avoided. The Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society provides pricing and financing that encourage the interment of cremated remains.
9. When the faithful chose cremation, it should be for good and just reasons and not solely on the basis of financial need. The Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society will work with the families who are financially challenged.
10. If possible, a priest or deacon should accompany the remains to the cemetery and perform the prescribed liturgical rites. If the grave or niche has not been blessed, the priest or deacon is to do so at this time.

Immersed in the wonder and hope of the Paschal Mystery of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ, the Church prays for the dead, filled with confidence that God will "wipe away all tears from our eyes and there will be no more death, no more tears, no more sadness." Rev 21:4

Please call the CCCS for additional cremation information.



Cremation

The Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society

**St. John Cemetery
St. Joseph Cemetery & Mausoleums
St. Mary Cemetery & Mausoleums**

513-557-2306

1-855-848-PLAN (7526)

www.cccsohio.org

“In the face of death, The Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity.” (“Order of Christian Funerals” OCF #1)

Reverence and care for the human body of the person being commended to God is fundamental to the tradition of the Catholic Church. “Through the celebration of the funeral rites, the Church manifests its care for the dead...” (OCF #18) “Since in baptism the body was marked with the seal of the Trinity and became the temple of the Holy Spirit, Christians respect and honor the bodies of the dead and the places where they rest.” (OCF #19)

The Catholic Church provides support to the bereaved who grieve at the death of a loved one and commends its deceased members to the mercy of God by means of its funeral rites. The Church provides and encourages participation by the faithful in three stages or moments that constitute its funeral rites to help families work through the healing process whether the family has decided on full-body burial or cremation.

Full-body burial is preferred by the Church because it reflects more fully the Christian belief in the bodily resurrection of the dead and our respect for the body, as a temple of the Holy Spirit, even after a person’s death. Cremation is permitted by the Church, provided it does not express a denial of the Catholic teaching on the dignity of the body.

This brochure has been developed to assist families and to help them understand the funeral and burial rites of the Catholic Church, especially when families are faced with making sensitive decisions at a very painful and stressful time. When further guidance is needed, Catholic faithful are encouraged to seek the counsel of their pastor before choosing cremations.

The Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society is committed to assist families in a reasonable manner so that cremation is not chosen solely as a result of financial considerations.

There are three (3) stages or moments that are found in the Order of Christian Funerals.

The Vigil/Wake: “The vigil for the deceased is the principal rite celebrated by the Christian community in the time following death and before the Funeral Liturgy or if there is no Funeral Liturgy, before the rite of committal.” (OCF #54) The vigil provides an opportunity to pray for the soul of the deceased and can provide a suitable occasion to invite family and friends to speak about and remember the life of the deceased.

When choosing cremation, it is always recommended the body be present for the vigil.

The Funeral Liturgy: “The Funeral Liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased.” (OCF #128)

“At the Funeral Liturgy the community gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ’s victory over sin and death, to commend the deceased to God’s tender mercy and compassion and to seek strength in the proclamation of the paschal mystery. Through the Holy Spirit the community is joined together in sign and symbol, work and gesture that each believer through baptism shares in Christ’s death and resurrection and can look to the day when all the elect will be raised up and united in the Kingdom of light and peace.” (OCF #129)

When choosing cremation, the Church encourages that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites. This allows appropriate reverence for the sacredness of the body; the sprinkling with holy water, the placing of the pall and honoring the body of the deceased with incense. A casket may be rented for presentation of the body at the Funeral Liturgy when cremation is chosen.

We give thanks and praise during the funeral rite for Christ’s victory over sin and death as we present and place the body and soul of the deceased in God’s care.

If there are extenuating circumstances in which it is necessary to cremate the body before the funeral rite, the cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the cremated remains (ashes). The cremated remains should then be present at the Funeral Mass.

The Rite of Committal: “The rite of committal, the conclusion of the funeral rites, is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of the deceased member. It may be celebrated at the grave, tomb or crematorium. Whenever possible, the rite of committal is to be celebrated at the site of committal, that is, beside the open grave or place of interment, rather than at a cemetery chapel.” (OCF #204)

“In committing the body to its resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with all those who have gone before marked with the sign of faith, the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection...the deceased passes with the farewell prayers of the community of believers into the welcoming company of those who need faith no longer but see God face to face.” (OCF #206)